

## WELCOME TO EPA NEW ENGLAND



On behalf of the employees of the US Environmental Protection Agency's New England office, thank you for your interest in the New England Superfund program. We look forward to another year of working together with our congressional delegation, states and tribes, the public, and other stakeholders in meeting the agency's mission of protecting human health and the environment.

EPA New England's Office of Site Remediation and Restoration (OSRR) oversees the Superfund program, including the cleanup of National Priorities List (NPL) sites, removal actions, and emergency response. OSRR also administers the region's Brownfields program, oil spill preparedness and prevention activities, as well as the underground storage tanks and corrective action provisions of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA). This Annual Report outlines EPA New England's activities in the Superfund long-term ("Remedial") cleanup and short-term ("Removal") cleanup programs and the Brownfields initiative.

Across New England, thousands of sites have required, or will require, investigation and cleanup; only a small percentage of those sites are addressed through the federal Superfund program. The large majority of cleanup work is being completed through programs administered by the New England states. We owe a debt of gratitude to our state counterparts for their hard work and dedication over the years. State assistance with the cleanup and long-term operation and maintenance at NPL sites has also been invaluable.

As our programs move into their third decade, the face of Superfund is changing. In recent years, most sites being added to the NPL at the request of the New England governors are those requiring costly cleanups, yet have limited private or state resources available to fund the study and cleanup - placing more stress on limited program budgets, yet reinforcing the need for a continued, viable federal Superfund program.

This report outlines EPA New England's progress and activities during Fiscal Year 2001 (October 2000—September 2001), and the environmental success stories that are receiving positive attention across New England, including the Brownfields redevelopment program and the push to reuse once-toxic waste sites. Site-specific information on New England sites on the National Priorities List, as well as information on short-term cleanups (or "removal actions") and the status of the region's Brownfields projects are also provided for your information. The report concludes with a basic refresher course on the Superfund program, a glossary of terms, and an index of projects.

Let us know if you have any comments about the Superfund program in your state or elsewhere in New England. We're proud of the progress we've made over the past 20 + years and look forward to continuing to work together to promote a cleaner, healthier, more productive environment.

Sincerely,

Robert W. Varney  
Regional Administrator

## Introduction

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Following is a quick summary of EPA New England's Office of Site Remediation and Restoration (OSRR) programs highlighted in this report.

### Emergency Planning and Response

OSRR's Emergency Planning and Response Branch plans for, prepares, and conducts responses to discharges of oil and releases of hazardous substances. In addition to conducting regional emergency response planning and preparedness, counter-terrorism readiness, inspection of oil storage facilities, and oil and chemical spill emergency actions, this branch oversees short-term cleanups in New England.

Short-term cleanups, also referred to as "removal actions," address immediate threats to public health and the environment. Short-term cleanups may take anywhere from a few days to a few years to complete, depending on the type and extent of contamination.

### Remedial Program

OSRR's Remedial Branches oversee long-term cleanups at sites which are typically on EPA's National Priorities List (NPL). Short-term cleanups can correct many hazardous waste problems and eliminate most threats to human health and the environment. Some sites, however, require lengthier cleanups. These may include large-scale soil remediation, restoring groundwater, and taking measures to protect wetlands, estuaries, and other ecological resources. These sites are often caused by years of pollution and may take several years, even decades, to clean.

### Brownfields Initiative

Originally established as an EPA initiative in January, 1995, the Brownfields program has since evolved into a collaborative effort involving more than 15 federal partners. This collaborative effort, referred to as the Brownfields National Partnership, was created in June 1997 to promote beneficial reuse of contaminated sites. EPA's Brownfields program consists of various initiatives designed to work with local, state and tribal partners to foster locally-driven, environmentally-sound brownfields reuse solutions. Key Brownfields programs include Site Assessment Demonstration Pilots, Targeted Brownfields Assessments, Cleanup Revolving Loan Funds, job training, Showcase Communities, and financial assistance to state Brownfields programs, including voluntary cleanup programs.

Additional information on these programs and New England projects can be found throughout this report, as well as in the Background section at the conclusion of this report.

## Contact Info:

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